

Graduate Program in Italian
Ph.D. Degree Learning Goals and Assessment
Adopted December 2011

The doctoral program in Italian trains students at the highest level to pursue academic careers in Italian language, literature, culture, and cinema studies. Students may also use their acquired skills to pursue careers in publishing, translation, or to work in cultural institutions in the US, in Italy, and abroad.

Learning Goal 1 for Students: Attain the ability to analyze critically and creatively literary, cultural, and cinematic texts of the Italian tradition.

Assessment of student achievement of Goal 1:

- Grades in graduate courses
- Comprehensive examinations assessing the depth and breadth of knowledge
- Review by faculty of student progress with close advising and mentoring
- Placement in positions and careers that require ability and scholarship in Italian language, literature, culture, and cinema

Role of the program in helping students to achieve Goal 1:

- Close advising to ensure that students are being prepared in a coherent and academically rigorous fashion
- Effective monitoring of student progress
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of instructors in graduate courses
 - If effectiveness is below expectations, work with instructors to improve effectiveness
- Periodic review of curricular offerings, degree requirements and assessment tools
 - By program faculty

- In consultation with the office of the dean of the graduate school and/or the unit dean

Learning Goal 2 for Students: Engage in and conduct original research

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 2:

- Oral presentations
- Seminar papers
- Comprehensive examinations
- Qualifying examinations
 - Preparation of bibliography in consultation with faculty members
 - Presentation of bibliography and its rationale
 - Delivery of written exams
- Preparation and defense of Ph.D. dissertation proposal
- Assessment of quality of Ph.D. dissertation:
 - Public defense of dissertation
 - Critical reading of dissertation by committee of graduate faculty members and a committee member from outside of the Italian graduate program
 - Submission and acceptance of peer-reviewed articles and conference papers based on the dissertation
- Achievement of students as evidenced by professional placements, selection for conference presentations, peer-reviewed publications and individual grant attainment

Role of the graduate program in helping students achieve Goal 2:

- Provide early introduction to research methods and opportunities for research
- Provide opportunities to present research and receive feedback
- Maintain adequate funding levels through the research phase

- Provide comprehensive advising and assist in the identification of mentors

Learning Goal 3 for Students: Ability to teach Italian language, literature, and culture

Assessment of student achievement of Goal 3:

- Attendance in training workshop for new instructors
- Participation in monthly meetings with coordinator
- Performance in Methodologies course
- Review by faculty
 - Class observation
 - Advising and mentoring
 - Peer class observation

Role of the program in helping students to achieve Goal 3:

- Supervision of student teaching
 - Bi-annual class observation
 - Mentoring
 - Participation in lectures organized by the department
 - Attendance of workshops organized by Language Institute
 - Videotaping of classes
 - Review of videotapes
 - Review of student evaluations
- Close advising to ensure that students are being prepared in a coherent and academically rigorous fashion
- Effective monitoring of student progress
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of instructors in graduate courses

- If effectiveness is below expectations, work with instructors to improve effectiveness
- Periodic review of curricular offerings, degree requirements and assessment tools
 - By program faculty
 - In consultation with the office of the dean of the graduate school and/or the unit dean

Learning Goal 4 for Students: Prepare to be professionals in careers that require training at the highest levels in the field of Italian language, literature, and culture

Assessment of graduate student achievement of Goal 4:

- Review evidence of papers presented, publications and professional networking
- Evaluations of teaching effectiveness of graduate student instructors
- Collection of placement data
- Review by external advisory committees composed of leading scholars in the field
- Survey alumni/ae

Role of the program in helping students to achieve Goal 4:

- Develop discipline-specific programs in concert with American Association of Teachers of Italian, the American Association of Italian Studies, the Modern Language Association of America, the North Eastern Modern Language Association of America, the American Comparative Literature Association, as well as with academic journals and presses
- Encourage participation in professional development programs in such areas as literature instruction, language pedagogy, library use, course management software, interview skills, presentation skills, development of CV's, use of research tools, training in the responsible conduct of research, and proposal writing
- Mock interviews in preparation for the job market
- Colloquia that offer presentation of dissertation work with feedback from faculty and fellow graduate students

- Host discipline-specific training when appropriate
- Teach students how to do assessment in their future professional capacities
- Provide flexible options for students with interdisciplinary interests related to Italian language, literature, and culture
- Develop or enhance programs related to job and networking skills, including activity in professional societies
- Acquaint students with non-academic career opportunities

The leadership of the Italian graduate program will regularly review the structure and content of the program and the feedback received from assessment and surveys. These reviews will be used to provide the best possible education to students in order to meet the needs for highly trained individuals in the field of Italian language, literature, and culture.